Corruption in purchase of LAN servers by ICAR

2882. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case has been registered against a few higher officials of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for criminal conspiracy and corruption in the LAN servers purchase scam during 1999-2001; and

(b) if so, the number of officials involved in the case alongwith their designations and the details of the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case has been registered by the CBI against two Deputy Directors General and one Asstt. Director General of the ICAR, officials of the then M/s HCL-HP Ltd. and other unknown persons. The report of investigation has not so far been received from the investigating agency.

Machines and equipment to tackle natural disaster

2883. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 38 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd February, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Central Government are not fully equipped with the latest machines etc. to tackle any type of natural disaster;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of any latest equipment to remove debris, a large number of persons lost their lives in the recent earthquake in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In the recent earthquake in Gujarat, Government of India in coordination with the State Governments and in association with the

Armed Forces launched a massive emergency relief operation for rescuing the people buried under the debris. International search and rescue teams supplemented these efforts to save human lives. However, necessity has been felt for undertaking long term measures for human resource development. A National Committee on Disaster Management has, accordingly, been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, including representatives of political parties at the Central and State level and it was decided to constitute a Working Group which in turn will set up Task Forces for suggesting long term measures.

Study of faults relating to earthquake

2884. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the frequent earthquakes taking place in the region and the discovery of many faults that cut across the Indian Crust, Government have any plan to take up extensive study of these faults; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The faults and tectonic features are picked up by the Geological Survey of India during their systematic geological mapping programme. The Government has initiated study of faults after the Latur Earthquake 1993. A number of state of the art seismic stations have been installed in the peninsular shield, which are contributing data to the National Network being operated by India Meteorological Department. The Geological Survey of India is also associated with this exercise. These seismic networks are helpful to identify active faults and map them in three dimensions.